

COCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health,

Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

For the year 1920.



TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY OF WORK
OF THE INSPECTOR.



COCKERMOUTH.
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COCKERMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report. My thanks are due to R. M. Lidbetter, Esq., for his courtesy in supplying information and record table of the Rainfall.

The report of your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor is appended, and shows the amount of satisfactory work accomplished by him.

I am, your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON.

Medical Officer of Health.

COCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE DISTRICT.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 2425.

The geological formation of the larger portions of the district is gravel with Skiddaw Slate and limestone on the boundary, covered in parts with glacial drifts, boulder clay, and waterborne sediment, sand and gravel. The town is intersected by two very fast flowing rivers, the Cocker, which flows from Lake Crummock (thereby draining the Buttermere, Loweswater, and Lorton Vales), and joins the other, the Derwent, which flows from Lakes Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite, about the centre of your Urban area.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Cockermouth is a very variable one. The prevailing winds are from the South-West with a heavy rainfall.

Rainfall :—
 1920.

R. M. Lidbetter, Esq.,
 The Moor,
 Cockermouth.

Month	Inches of rain	No. of days with 'or in. or more recorded
Jan.	6'21	27
Feb.	3'82	19
Mar.	6'25	23
Apr.	2'61	25
May	4'03	12
June	1'41	14
July	7'26	27
Aug.	2'17	17
Sept.	2'23	17
Oct.	1'17	10
Nov.	3'27	15
Dec.	1'93	14
Total	42'46	220

The average rainfall in Cockermouth for the previous ten years was 42'005 inches, as gathered from records kept by the late Josiah Hall, Esq., Elmhurst.

Mr. Lidbetter has informed me that the late Dr. Dodgson, Cockermouth, kept records for thirty-five years, and that his average over this period was 42'43 inches.

CHIEF OCCUPATION OF THE INHABITANTS.

Cockermouth is a market town. Most of the inhabitants work at the usual businesses and trades of an ordinary small town. A Thread Mill in the adjoining Rural District employs about 150 employees (male and female labour). Saw-mills, a Brewery, Railways, and the Urban District Council employ a considerable number of persons. A few find employment about the cattle marts, whilst a few go to work in the coal-mines, in a granite quarry, and in Iron Works outside the district.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figures for the population of the district estimated to the middle of 1920 is 4,806, on which the birth and death rates are based.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

116 Births were registered in the Cockermouth Urban District in 1920. Nine births were transferred outwards (i.e. children of parents whose usual residence was without the district).

The total number of births belonging to Cockermouth was therefore 107 (63 males and 44 females), of these 7 (4 males and 3 females) were illegitimate.

The nett birth rate is accordingly 22·26 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 20·9 for the previous year. The rate is lower than that for all England and Wales by 3·14, and that for all the Urban Districts of the County by 6·54.

10 Births (5 males, 5 females), occurred in the Workhouse, 9 (5 males, 4 females), of these being illegitimate.

Birth Rates, 1920—Cockermouth	...	...	22·26
England and Wales	...	...	25·4
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	...	28·8
Cumberland	...	...	27·6

The percentage of illegitimate births is 6·5, as compared with 8·9, in 1919.

Birth Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District :—

Year—1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Rate—22·26	20·9	15·0	19·8	16·5	18·6	25·2	20·9	21·1	26·5

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Cockermouth was 67 (i.e. after correcting for non-residents dying in the Cockermouth Urban District and for those persons whose usual residence was in Cockermouth dying without the town.) This gives a death rate of 13·9 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 16·2 for the previous year. The rate exceeds that for all England and Wales by 1·5, but is lower than that for all the Urban Districts of the County by ·8.

Death Rates, 1920—Cockermouth	...	...	13·9
England and Wales	...	...	12·4
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	...	14·7
Cumberland	...	...	14·2

Death Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District :

Year—1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Rate—13·9	16·2	23·1	13·0	16·8	18·1	16·4	14·1	12·1	14·4

CAUSES OF DEATH IN YEAR 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males	Females
Civilians only.					
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	35	32
1 Enteric Fever	...	...	...
2 Small-pox	...	...	...
3 Measles	...	...	...
4 Scarlet fever	...	...	...
5 Whooping-cough	...	...	...	1	
6 Diphtheria & croup	...	...	...		1
7 Influenza	...	...	...		1
8 Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	
9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2	1
10 Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...
11 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...
12 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	1	6
13 Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...
14 Meningitis	...	...	...
15 Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	5
16 Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	2
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	4
18 Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	1
19 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	
20 Appendicitis & Typhlitis	...	...	...
21 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...
21a Alcoholism	...	...	...
22 Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	1	1
23 Puerperal fever	...	...	...
24 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	...	...
25 Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	2	1
26 Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...
27 Suicide	...	...	...	1	
28 Other defined disease	...	...	...	14	9
29 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age					
Total	...	...	...	6	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1
TOTAL BIRTHS				63	44
Legitimate	...	...	...	59	41
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	3
Population (for Births and Deaths)				4,806	

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality

During the Year 1920.

(Provisional figures. Provisional populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

Cockermouth Urban District ...	England and Wales	96 Great Towns, including London (census populations exceeding 50,000)	148 Smaller Towns (census populations 20,000—50,000)	London ...	Birth-rate per 1,000 total population	Annual Deate-rate per 1,000 population										Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths						
						All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes of Death	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death				
22.26	25.4	26.2	24.9	26.5	13.9	12.4	12.5	11.3	12.4	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	9.34	102.8	11.9	98.5	1.49	0.00
0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.22	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.30	0.47	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.30	0.47	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5	
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2	

* Including suicide.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Eleven deaths occurred of infants under 1 year of age. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 102·8 per 1000 births, which is an increase of 53·3 on last year's figure of 49·5 per 1000 births. The average for the past ten years is approximately 102. The rate is an unsatisfactory one and the figures below show how unfavourably it compares with the rates for all England and Wales, the Urban Districts of Cumberland, and for the County as a whole.

Bad sanitary conditions are usually one cause of a high Infantile Mortality Rate. I consider that were the mothers to realize their due responsibility in motherhood this rate would be materially lessened :—

		1920
Cockermouth Urban District	...	102·8
Cockermouth Rural District	...	102·6
England and Wales	...	80·0
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	97·0
Cumberland	...	90·0

1 out of the 11 deaths was that of an illegitimate infant, giving an Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of 142·8 per 1000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of 100·0 per 1000 legitimate births.

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the last 10 years were :—

Year —	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Rate —	102·8	49·5	166·6	105	102	140	127	86	54·0	87

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
Diphtheria	...							1			1
Convulsions	...	1				1					1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...							1	1		2
Diarrhoea	...							1			1
Congenital Malformation	...				1	1					1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...		2			2			1		3
Other Causes	...	2				2					2
All Causes (certified). ...		3	2	0	1	5	0	3	2	0	11

SENILE DEATH RATE.

Thirty-one persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This represents a Senile Death Rate of 46·2 per cent. of the total deaths.

Out of the total 67 deaths—

1	person (f)	died between the ages of 90 & 95 years
2	persons (1.m., 1.f.)	died between the ages of 85 & 90 years
6	„ (3.m., 3.f.)	„ „ „ 80 & 85 years
3	„ (1.m., 2.f.)	„ „ „ 75 & 80 years
8	„ (2.m., 6.f.)	„ „ „ 70 & 75 years
11	„ (5.m., 6.f.)	„ „ „ 65 & 70 years

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

There was one inquest during the year and one uncertified death.

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 7 cases, as compared with 7 in 1919, which corresponds to a death rate of 1·4 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1·5 in 1919.

Approximately out of every 10 deaths one was due to Cancer.

The Cancer Death Rates for the past 10 years were :—

Year —	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Deaths	1·4	1·5	2·3	1·1	2·5	1·1	1·8	·96	2·1	·96

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic death rate, or the death rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases, for 1920 is ·6 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with ·2 for 1919.

The following figures show the number of deaths from each disease :—

Zymotic Disease	No. of Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	...
Measles ... ..	...
Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...
{ Continued ... ..	...
Diarrhoea	1
Total	3

The Zymotic Death Rates for the past 10 years :—

Year—1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Rate— '6	'2	'9	'2	'4	1'6	1'2	'6	1'8	'7

PAUPERISM.

In the Cockermouth Urban District, which is included in the Cockermouth Union, the number of persons in receipt of relief was 74 (56 adults and 18 children), 30 of which (26 adults and 4 children) were in the Workhouse.

The proportion is, therefore, approximately, 1 in 65.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is by gravitation from Crummock Lake, and is ample in quantity and excellent in quality.

During the latter part of the year (and continuing into the new year) the water mains from Crummock Lake have been scraped. After this operation the water has been much discoloured with rust, and complaints of this have been general. If the scraping has been properly done then efficient flushing appears to be the only immediate remedy.

The supply is a constant one.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A considerable amount of pollution of the rivers and streams flowing through the town takes place, e.g. :—

Derwent—Surface water.

Slop-water from houses situated on the bank of the river. (e.g. : Waterloo Street.)

Cocker—Surface water.

Some pollution by waste washing water from Brewery.

Bitter Beck—Surface water.

Pollution from washing sheep skins in the stream.

Tom Rudd Beck—Surface water.

Stream comes through the Cockermouth Cemetery.

Slop-water from houses abutting on to the banks of the stream.

Pollution from two W.C.'s discharging direct into the stream.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Your Surveyor generally reports favourably on this department, taking into consideration the difficult circumstances of the system.

The tanks at the outfall are inadequate in size for dealing with the amount of sewage that comes to them.

Every effort should be made to keep out land drainage and surface water from the sewers, and to utilise the irrigation land to the fullest possible extent.

The tanks being situated close to the main Workington Road a considerable nuisance is caused by the periodic emptying of them.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Practically the same conditions exist to-day as in 1914, and I would refer you to the figures given on page 21 of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer for that year.

One closet for more than two houses is insufficient. In one street the accommodation is as follows :—

1 W.C. for 6 houses

1 „ „ 5 „

1 „ „ 4 „

With the following exceptions water-closets are installed, the types in existence being largely hopper :—

Pail privies 4 houses

Midden privies nil

A few outlying dwelling-houses have water-closets with cesspools. One pail privy was converted into a water-closet in 1920.

SCAVENGING.

The domestic refuse is collected in uncovered carts four days a week ; shop refuse once a week. Streets are scavenged daily by hand labour or horse-brush. This method appears to work satisfactorily.

Proper dust or ash-bins are the exception rather than the rule in Cockermouth. These bins should be of galvanised iron with well fitting metallic covers ; such receptacles have the advantage of being easily moved and carried out to the dust cart, as well as insuring dryness of the contents, and protection from rain, and being of non-absorbent material.

Sweepings from fronts and shop-floors ought to be placed in bins too.

The Council has a tip outside the town proper for household refuse and ashes. A small refuse destructor should be considered.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

These will be found detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's Report appended, which is a record of the useful work the Sanitary Inspector has done during the year.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are three in your district, viz., one Knacker and Bone-boiler, one Skin and Gut Scraper, and one Knacker and Fellmonger.

Only one of these is licensed at present.

Notice has been served on the Skin and Gut Scraper to provide suitable receptacles, properly constructed of galvanised iron or of some other non absorbent material, and furnished with closely fitting covers. This notice has not been complied with and the licence has been withheld.

Householders in the near vicinity of two of these trades have complained of offensive effluvia at various times. Needless to say such trades should be without the town, and not near any inhabited dwellings.

There is one common lodging house in the town. The building is an old one and really not suitable for the purpose. These premises are regularly inspected.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply of the schools is the same as that of the town.

The action taken to prevent spread of infection in schools conforms to that of the County generally. When occasion arises, contacts from infected homes are excluded, and the schools are closed to prevent the spread of an epidemic either by the Medical Officer of Health with the subsequent approval of the School Medical Officer of Health, or by the School Medical Officer acting independently.

Under the County Council's scheme The Harford House combined School Clinic and Dispensary was opened during the Autumn, and is under my care and supervision.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION.*

The Cockermouth Public Elementary Schools (Fairfield, All Saints', and St. Joseph's R.C.) were medically inspected during November and December. The total number of children examined was 806 which includes 436 Routines, 84 Specials, and 286 in the March Past.

*Extract from my Annual Report on School Medical Inspection under the County Council.

(Explanatory Note :—"Routines" include entrants, intermediates, i.e. children 8 years old, and leavers—children from 12 to 14 years of age. "Specials" are those children specifically referred to the Medical Officer and not due for routine medical inspection at the time when specially referred; such children may or may not be of code-group age and may be referred to the Medical Officer at the School or the Clinic, by the Committee, Medical Officers, School Nurses, Teachers, Attendance Officers, Parents, or otherwise. The "March Past" includes all children who have not been examined as Routines or Specials. The throat of every child is examined for enlargement of tonsils; a rapid examination is made of each child in passing as to its cleanliness of body and clothing, and a look-out is kept for obvious defects as squint, discharging ears, deformities, ring-worm, etc., or for *conditions suggesting* defects, as e.g. extreme pallor, suggesting anæmia.)

On the whole I consider the general health of the children I inspected (excluding those having definite defects) was fairly satisfactory, though it is interesting to note that out of 520 children (Routines and Specials) there were 114 I considered to be ill-nourished to a greater or less degree. The detailed results of my inspection are as follows :—9.9 per cent were affected by vermin. By far the greater number of children suffering from vermin was among girls.

Throat Conditions.—63 children were found to be suffering from throat conditions (Tonsils and Adenoids) to a greater or less degree.

Skin Diseases.—The prevalence, generally, of skin disease was not marked, the percentage being only 3.8 of the children examined.

External Eye Disease.—There were 10 cases of Blepharitis, the majority being of the squamous type and to a considerable extent due to neglect on the part of the parents.

Defective Vision (infants below the age of seven were not examined) 47 children had errors of refraction, making a percentage of 13.6. Including 7 children affected with squint the percentage becomes approximately 15.7.

Tuberculosis.—3 previously notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were examined. My suspicions were aroused as regards 15 children, the symptoms and signs being such as not to warrant a diagnosis of definite Phthisis.

Ear Disease and Hearing.—There were 5 cases of ear disease among those examined; 2 other children were noted as having defective hearing, both of which I attributed to enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

Heart Disease and Anæmia.—Cardiac abnormality was found in 2.7 per cent. of the scholars examined. Approximately 4 per cent. suffered from Anæmia.

Dental Defects.—Among “Routines” I found approximately 19 per cent. of the boys and 17 per cent. of the girls had sound teeth. Similarly, of the boys and girls respectively, there were 66 per cent. and 60 per cent. with up to 4 bad teeth, and 15 per cent. and 12 per cent. with more than 4 bad teeth.

Vaccination.—Approximately 57 per cent. of the Routines examined showed no vaccination marks; that is to say more than half the scholars examined were unvaccinated.

Treatment of Defects.—Cases referred for treatment at the School Inspection: When considered advisable parents are told to take their children to their own doctor, or the children attend the School Clinic for observation, advice and treatment. In any case the children are followed up by visits of the school Nurse.

Co-operation of Parents.—Parents are informed beforehand of the Medical Inspection at the school which their children attend.

Only a few parents were present at the Inspections of the Cockermouth Schools:

	Fairfield Infants	Fairfield Girls	Fairfield Boys	All Saints	St. Joseph's R.C.
Parents present	9	15	2	25	nil.
				total—51.	

Co-operation of Teachers.—I have found the teachers very willing to help in every way, and the facilities for the Inspection have been quite satisfactory. Their co-operation is of immense value, and the greater the powers of observation on their part, the more do they aid in the Medical Inspection and affect the attitude to be adopted in the following up of certain cases and the treatment to be advised.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Surroundings—Satisfactory, excepting that the St. Joseph's School-yard is unpaved and so becomes muddy in wet weather.

Ventilation—Fairly satisfactory, though I have noticed on several occasions that all windows have not been opened at times when flushing with fresh air is necessary. Windows and ventilators could be used to better advantage.

Lighting—Fairly satisfactory, excepting in one room of All Saints School. The lighting in St. Joseph's School is not good.

Warming—By open fireplaces and stoves (St. Joseph's). I consider the stoves in St. Joseph's School are not satisfactory.

Equipment—Satisfactory.

Sanitation—Good on the whole now. I gave instructions re several defects in connexion with St. Joseph's School.

Desks—Fairfield School has the dual type. The others have a mixture of dual, six feet, and longer desks. Non-dual desks should be converted into dual.

Sanitary Conveniences—Water Closets.

Lavatories—All the schools have Lavatories.

Cleanliness—I have had occasion to report to the Managers of St. Joseph's School, on the conditions noticed at that School, and the conditions now are improved.

Relation of general arrangements to health of children—With regard to this I would just say that I consider it wrong to have two or more classes together in the same room, and that day-light should not be sacrificed to enable more children or more classes to be accommodated in one room; also that the desks should be placed in relation to the light so that no shadows are cast.

School Closures:—St. Joseph's School was closed for one week in the late Autumn on account of an epidemic of sore throat, and so that several general school defects could be attended to.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Veterinary inspection of the cattle in dairies supplying milk to the town is carried out quarterly.

Favourable reports of the health of the cattle have been received from the Inspector.

There are 16 cowsheds on the register; these may be classed as follows:—

Good, 4 ; Fair, 7 ; Bad, 5.

Several of the cowsheds have structural defects, e.g.: cobbled floors and bad drainage, etc. In some cases the ventilation provided is not used properly.

The importance of the cow, and the milker's hands, being clean before milking cannot be too much emphasised.

Manure or dirt should be washed, at least, from the flanks, tail, and udder, before milking commences.

It is impossible to expect good clean milk if the cowsheds are bad, sanitarily, the cows are dirty, the milkers are dirty, and the milk receptacles are not kept scrupulously clean.

MEAT.
SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

	In 1914	In January, 1920	In December, 1920
Registered ...	0	0	0
Licensed ...	4	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	4	4	4

There were no new buildings or buildings converted into slaughterhouses during the year. Inspections have been made at various times, including time of slaughter.

The condition of the three private slaughter-houses has been satisfactory.

The cleanliness of the Councils small public abattoir has not been as it should.

No meat has been condemned for Tuberculosis, and no action has been taken under section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

The Workhouse and Industrial School have been supplied during the year from within the district.

The character of this meat has been good.

The Food and Drugs Acts and the Milk and Cream Regulations have been administered by the County Council.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The total number of infectious Diseases notified during 1920, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, &c., was 17.

No notifiable infectious disease was prevalent during the year.

The age incidence in each disease notified is given in the following table :--

Disease Notified.	At all Ages	Under 5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	Over 65 years
Diphtheria	6	2	3	0	0	1	---
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Erysipelas	4	0	1	1	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	0	0	0	3	1	---
Other forms ..	2	0	1	0	0	0	1

As much isolation as is possible in the home is insisted upon, and disinfectants are supplied by the Council free of charge.

When the patient is free from infection, disinfection of the sick-room is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who also disinfects if an infectious case terminated fatally.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided free of charge by the Council, and is kept by one of the chemists in the town. Arrangements are also made with the Chemical Research Association for the bacteriological examination of swabs, sputa, etc.

Cockermouth has no hospital for infectious sick. The prevention of an epidemic is therefore a difficult matter, and to prevent a serious widespread epidemic is almost impossible.

(In the Annual Report for 1914 the Medical Officer of Health says: "In the event of a serious epidemic the lack of a Fever Hospital would be severely felt as in most of the houses isolation is very imperfect.")

No. of Notifications during each month of 1920.

Diseases.			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	1			1						2	6
Scarlet Fever	...	...											
Enteric Fever	...	...											
Puerperal Fever	...	...											
Erysipelas	...	...						1						3	4
Pneumonia	...	...											1		1

No. of Notifications during past 10 years.

Diseases.	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Small-pox	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	6	3	6	7	11	17	5	5	5
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0	1	2	4	15	7	4	7
Enteric	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	4	1	0	2	3	4	1	2	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Tuberculosis regulations 4 cases (2 males and 2 females) of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 cases (1 male and 1 female) of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified.

There were 3 deaths (2 males and 1 female) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and no deaths from other forms of Tuberculous disease.

The 'Consumption' death-rate is accordingly .62 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 2.1 per 1000 for 1919.

The ages at death were:—

	at all ages.	under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	over 65
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rates for the past ten years were :—

Year —	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Rate —	'62	2'1	'46	'4	'6	2'3	'8	1'59	'76	1'34

A Dispensary for the supervision and treatment of Tuberculous patients was opened in the autumn by the County Council. This Dispensary is under the direction of your Medical Officer.

Sanitary Administration.

1.—STAFF.

There is one Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Housing Inspector and Surveyor. It is a difficult matter for this official to cope with all the work entailed.

2.—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Apart from smallpox, there is none available in the district. (vide p. 18)

The district forms part of the Derwent Joint Smallpox Hospital Board.

3.—ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL.

The Public Health Amendment Acts, of 1890 and 1907, are in force in the district.

Other Acts—The Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, came into force January, 1st, 1920.

The Midwives Acts and Maternity & Child Welfare are administered by the County Council.

4.—CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

Throat Swabs, Sputa, etc., are sent to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London, for examination and report. There were six throat swabs of suspected Diphtheria cases sent and reported upon, three proving positive and three negative.

Housing.

1.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

The number of dwelling-houses of all classes is 879, of which 529 are of the working-class type. No new houses were built.

The general housing conditions are well set forth in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1914, and, again, in that for 1919, the M.O.H. records figures from a general survey made by your Sanitary Inspector. The subject matter in those reports holds good for 1920. (q.v.)

There has been no important change in population during the year and none is anticipated in the future.

Gross overcrowding is present in 8 houses. To deal with overcrowding, and to make up for unfit houses, &c., the Housing Committee have chosen two sites for building new houses; plans have been before the Council and the preliminary work for 18 houses is being commenced at the time of compiling this report. The Council's intention is to erect 300 houses by instalments of 50, and, as Dr. McLeish in his 1919 report says, "the building of the whole 300 to depend on whether the houses are taken up at a reasonable rent. When the first 50 are built it will be possible to get improvements made in the existing houses."

The general character of the defects include dampness, bad lighting and ventilation, defective walls and spouting, and defective drainage. The reasons in the main for defects not being remedied are lack and expense of labour and material. As regards the back-to-back houses, of which there are ninety-six, two of these should be converted into one house where possible, to ensure through ventilation.

Building Byelaws of the Council were made in 1886, and there were additions in 1894 and 1905. I have had, so far, no cause for suggesting new byelaws, or a revision of the existing ones.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

1.	Estimated Population	4806	
2.	General Death-rate	13.14	per 1000 of population.
3.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	62	per 1000 of
4.	Infantile Mortality	102.8	per 1000 births. [population
5.	Number of Dwelling houses of all classes	...	879
6.	Number of working-class dwelling houses	...	529
7.	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	nil.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

1.—Inspection.

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) - - - No special house-to-house inspections made since 1919
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. - - - do.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - 46 (as in 1919)
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - - 357 (as in 1919)

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - - 11

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919* - - -

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - - nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—
- (a) by owners - - - 14 made into 11
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners - - - nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close - - - nil

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied- - - 194
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—
- (a) by owners - - - 192
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners - - - nil

(c) *Proceedings under section 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909* - - - nil.

Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer- - - 1 Inspector of Nuisances who is also the Council's Surveyor.

Cockermouth Urban District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year 1920, on the administration of the Factory and
Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

1. Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

				Inspections
Factories	—	—	—	—
Workshops	—	—	—	71
Workplaces	—	—	—	—
			Total	—
				71

2. Defects Found

		Found	Remedied
Want of Ventilation	—	0	0
Insufficient or defective Sanitary Accommodation		0	0

3.—Home Work Nil.

4. Registered Workshops.

Confectioners and Bakers	—	8
Tailors —	—	13
Dressmakers and Milliners	—	6
Boot and Clog Makers	—	11
Blacksmiths	—	4
Painters	—	4
Plumbers, etc.	—	6
Printers	—	4
Picture-frame makers and Upholsterers	—	3
Joiners, etc.	—	6
Builders and Stone Masons	—	2
Motor Engineers and Cycle Repairers	—	5
	Total	—
		72

CHARLES A. MASON,

May, 1921.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Dr. Chas. A. Mason,
Medical Officer of Health,
Cockermouth U.D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

Nuisances reported to Council	-	-	199
Nuisances reported and attended to-	-	-	194
Notices served and complied with	-	-	27

DETAILED SANITARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

Defective Drains	-	-	31
„ W.C.'s	-	-	30
„ Flushing Apparatus	-	-	14
„ Yard Gullies and Sink Pipes	-	-	20
„ Spouts and Eave Gutters	-	-	12
Accumulation of Manure	-	-	22
Insufficient Water Supply	-	-	2
Defective Wash-house Floors	-	-	2
Pigs kept too near dwellings	-	-	3
Defective Yards, Pavements, etc.	-	-	4
Premises in dirty condition	-	-	13
Dirty Byre and Stables	-	-	1
Delapidated Buildings	-	-	6
Accumulation of Empty Fish Boxes, etc.	-	-	5
Defective W.C. Basins	-	-	5
Damp Walls	-	-	6
Drains relaid	-	-	4
Allowing unfit premises to be occupied	-	-	1
Dangerous cellar gratings	-	-	2
Keeping fowls in dirty condition	-	-	1
Defective and dirty stables	-	-	5
Dirty and Offensive Knackers Business	-	-	2
Nuisances on Public Highway	-	-	1
Obnoxious smell from business	-	-	1

REFUSE REMOVAL.

This work has been carried out very efficiently during the year by the Council's employees.

All sewers and street chambers have been regularly flushed and cleansed throughout the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to the town has been good and constant.

The Mains, between lake and reservoir, have been scraped, causing a slight discolouring of the water for a short time.

The reservoir has been thoroughly cleansed and washed out three times during the year, and all valves examined. the hydrants and washouts have been regularly flushed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These premises have been regularly inspected, some of which stand in need of considerable improvements.

I am continually receiving complaints of obnoxious smells and pollution of streams.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On the notification of any infectious disease the premises have been visited and every precaution has been taken to prevent any spread of the disease. The patients have been duly isolated in bedrooms at their own houses.

On recovering, the premises and contents have been thoroughly disinfected.

SCHOOLS.

During the year Fairfield Schools and St. Joseph's R.C. Schools were thoroughly disinfected with Formalin Spray and cleaned as a necessary precaution.

NEW HOUSES AND ALTERATIONS, Etc.

Plans have been approved by the Council for the following:—

Alterations to Buildings, Drains. etc.	5
New W.C.'s and Bath Rooms	6
New Oil Depots	2
Temporary Dwelling	1

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

There have been no inspections made under this Act since 1919.

There are at the present time something like 50 houses in the district not fit for habitation. Nothing being done in the way of providing new houses, we are at a standstill.

During the year there have been certain alterations carried out, converting fourteen of these little houses into eleven suitable dwellings, with additional sanitary conveniences.

Notices have been served to a good many property owners to have their premises put into habitual conditions, and a few have been complied with.

Most of these houses are situated up yards or courts, and defects found in most are of bad drainage, yard pavements, spouts, insufficient water-closet accommodation, dampness, and lack of ventilation.

HY. GRAHAM,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.
Cockermouth U.D.C.